(c) The JWG meeting initiated the process of negotiating an early settlement of the boundary question in an atmosphere of enhanced understanding created by the Prime Minister's visit to China. Both sides reaffirmed their intention to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas, while recognising that there was need for confidence building arrangements. Both sides have resolved to strengthen bilateral exchanges and to continue their dialogue on regional and international issues. There was understanding that India and China held significant responsibilities for peace and stability in Asia.

Schemes for increasing the tourist traffic to Kanyakumari

*33. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various schemes formulated and under implementation to increase the flow of tourist traffic to Kanyakumari, the cape of the South;

(b) what steps have already been taken to construct a three star hotel by the India Tourism Development Corporation at Kanyakumari and what is the exact stage of this project; and

(c) whether any alternative steps are proposed to be taken by Government to build a three star hotel for the foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of India Tourism Development Corporation for the construction of a three star hotel at Kanyakumari.

(c) In the private sector, the Department of Tourism have approved one hotel project of three star category with a capacity of 60 rooms, which is under construction at Kanyakumari.

Statement

During the Seventh Plan the following schemes formulated by the State Government has been sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism, which are at various stages of implementation to increase the flow of tourist traffic to Kanyakumari, the cape of the South:

(i) Construction of 8 Beach Cottages

(ii) Construction of a Cafeteria

(iii) Tourist amenities at Bathing Ghats

(iv) Purchase of a Ferry launch

(v) Floodlighting of Vivakananda Rock Memorial.

Air worthiness of new Boeing Aircraft

*34. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of new 747-400 Boeing aircrafts available with Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether Government are aware that certain European coun-

tries like Britain, Netherlands, West Germany and France have refused to grant air worthiness certificate to the new aircraft unless certain modifications are carried out by the company; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) Air India and Indian Airlines do not have any Boeing 747-400 aircraft in their fleet. It is understood that there is a dialogue under way between American and European Airworthiness Authorities regarding certification standards applicable to Boeing 747-400 aircraft. It is, however, not uncommon for airworthiness authorities in importing countries to lay down additional certification requirements to meet local standards.

Shortage of funds in running National Literacy Programme

*35. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Literacy Programme continues to suffer from shortage of funds; and

(b) if so, what is the requirement of funds for the programme for the current year and the actual amount provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Although the actual availability of funds has been less than the projected requirement, the tempo of the National Literacy Programme has been maintained.

(b) Against the total estimated requirement of Rs. 227.88 crores (Rs. 167.90 crores in the Central Sector and Rs. 59.98 crores in the State Sector), the actual allocation during the current financial year is Rs. 132.09 crores (Rs. 76.17 crores in the Central Sector and Rs. 55.92 crores in the State Sector).

Excess expenditure incurred on Apna Utsav

*36. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the justification for the excess expenditure incurred, as against the approved budget of Rs. 5.5 crores for the festival "Apna Utsav" as pointed out in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General;

(b) what methodology was adopted to monitor the expenditure incurred by the various agencies;

(c) what action has been taken by Government for non-furnishing of the certificates in respect of the utilisation of grants by the concerned Zonal Centres; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government for irregular payments made to the artists by the National Cultural Festival Delhi Society without framing any norms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Against the approved estimates of Rs. 4.90 crores a sum of Rs. 5.70 crores was released. Actual expenditure assessed, however, is Rs. 5.51 crores. The excess over initial estimates was primarily due to increase in number of artistes, increase in number of days of Festival, publicity and on site development.